

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1585
ANSWERED ON:10.12.2008
ENDANGERED TIBBATI DEERS (CHEERU)
Bose Shri Subrata

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the places where Tibbati deers (Cheeru) are found in the country alongwith their numbers;
- (b) whether these deers are being hunted on a large scale;
- (c) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) the steps taken by the Government against the poachers and to protect these deers?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI S.REGUPATHY)

(a) As per the information received from the Government of Jammu & Kashmir, the Tibetan Antelope (*Pantolops hodgsonii*), commonly known as Chiru is mainly confined to the Tibetan plateau. During summer season, a small population of Tibetan Antelope migrate to parts of eastern Ladakh in Jammu & Kashmir viz. Changchenmo valley in Changthang Wildlife Sanctuary and Daulat Beigh Olde (DBO) area in Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary in Leh District of Ladakh. The number of Tibetan Antelope occurring in the DBO and Changchenmo area is estimated to be around 250-300 and 50-60 respectively.

(b) No Sir. There are no such reports.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) The Jammu & Kashmir Government has taken several steps for the protection of the Tibetan Antelope. Two areas forming the prime habitats of Tibetan Antelope have been declared as Wildlife Sanctuaries namely Karakoram Wildlife Sanctuary (including DBO area) and the Changthang Cold Desert Wildlife Sanctuary, (including Changchenmo area). Further, Tibetan Antelope has been included in the Schedule I of the Jammu & Kashmir Wildlife Protection Act, 1978 thereby according it the highest degree of protection. The Central Government also provides financial and technical assistance to Jammu & Kashmir Government under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme - 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries' for the conservation and management of Protected Areas including the habitats of Tibetan Antelope.